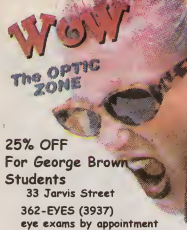


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## December 6th Remembered

In an emotion drenched Service of Reflection, the George Brown College community participated in the National Day of Remembrance for All Women and Children Killed in Canada by acts of violence. Organized by the students of the Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor Advocate Programme (AWCCA), the service took place in the Lecture Hall at St. James campus. To a packed hall, students and faculty saw a candle lit for each one of the fourteen women killed at the Montreal Massacre eleven years ago on December 6th.

This memorial had a special meaning to the AWCCA students. One student, Sarah was mourning the murder of her sister, Christine Marie at the hands of her husband.

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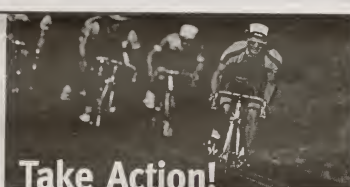
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# EDITORIAL



## It's that time of year again...

Well, it's that time of year again. I bet some of us are a little bit stressed at this time of year. For most of us, exams and assignments are due (or past due...yikes!) in addition to the commitments that accompany the holiday season. With all of the hustle and bustle in our lives we sometimes lose focus to what it is that matters in our lives. The latter months of the year are when stores kick it up into high gear. Everywhere one looks there are sales. Sales of clothes. Sales of computers. Sales of "stuff" in general. The extent of the commercialization of the holiday season really overwhelms me every year. I think that the real meaning of Christmas has been stripped down to a plastic, artificial shell of what it once was. I heard through the grapevine that the new Eatons store that just opened in the Eaton's Centre, was not too concerned with opening so late in the year since 2/3 of their sales income occurs in the last two months of the year. Most of us have so much in this country. Does Dad really need another tie? Does Mom really need another blue sweater? Will little Billy hate you if he doesn't get that new Sony Playstation 2? It is so easy to get swept up into the market frenzy that is among us. So many people tend to show their love for others with expensive gifts yet fail to spend time with that loved one. Personally, I have forgotten about most of the once cherished toys I dreamt about for weeks as pictured in a ragged, dog-eared gigantic Sears catalogue. The memories I do remember so fondly are going on fun outings with my friends and parents. Going tobogganing, skating, snow-hill fights, helping stuck motorists, shoveling snow-these are my memories of the Winter. Every Fall it was time for the annual pilgrimage to the maple syrup farm. Thoughts of hay rides and maple syrup candy put a smile on my face. I can almost smell and taste that sweet, rich maple syrup...ummh. As well, I remember the annual family get-together when I'd be able to spend time with my large extended family. At the time it seemed a real chore to hang out with relatives but, now that I'm older I'm really

grateful to have such a close knit family.

Last weekend, Sera Gordon and I went to Tent City. The people we met there were so warm and friendly to us. I would like to thank them for their hospitality and allowing us into their homes. In the current issue of the paper there is a photo essay that we put together with the actual layout by Allan Stokell (our friend, mentor, boss and all around cool guy). That day we spent at Tent City really left me in a state of disarray for a number of days. If you think that the state of affordable housing is not at disastrous portions yet, look at the pictures or better yet go for a visit. The need for affordable housing in this city is a problem that will only get worse. Shelters are nothing but band-aid solutions. The couple I talked to seemed quite friendly and upbeat all things considering. I found out that some residents of Tent City have been living there for a year and a half. As I lay in bed during these ever increasingly chilly nights, I think about the people I met at Tent City. We have got to collectively stop talking about the problem and focus on immediate solutions. Are we going to wait until Tent City franchises across the country?

This holiday season why don't we all do one thing for someone who really needs it. There are so many of us who may not have as much material wealth but have an abundance of caring inside-we are in the position to make that gesture of reaching out so LET'S DO IT. It can be as simple as buying a gift for the homeless person you've kicked on a daily basis for years to volunteering at a soup kitchen or shelter. You could also donate some money in the name of your friend or relative, that will be put to good use by a local charity.

I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season! I hope that in the new year the scales will start to balance for the less fortunate among us. I hope election promises aren't empty ones! They don't want your pity, just some respect and a chance to better themselves will do.

See y'all next year  
Edwin Huang, Editor

## Letters

Re: The piece on the December 6th tragedy submitted to the *Dialog* Newspaper, November 24, 2000 issue.

I am sorry for the confusion which was caused by not citing the source of the above mentioned article. It was an honest mistake which occurred because of focussing only on the goal of raising awareness among readers, regarding the violence against women through the tragic incident of the Montreal Massacre.

I did not purposely compromise my own integrity and the integrity of the Women's Centre and the *Dialog*. Submitting this article was my personal choice and it is not a requirement for any of my courses, neither can it enhance my grades. I was deeply touched by the Montreal Massacre and was strictly in the mindset of promoting awareness regarding the tragedy. Unfortunately, I did not cite the source and I am sending a note of retraction to the *Dialog* for the next issue to fix my mistake.

This is a mistake from which I have definitely learned from and I would like to express my deepest apologies for the incident.

Zahra Siddiqui

**Editor's Note:** The story Ms. Siddiqui refers to was inappropriately credited to her. In fact it was reproduced from the Internet.

## The Peace of the Lord

by Allan Stokell

It's almost 2001 and this is our Holiday Issue of *Dialog*. I would like to wish all our readers a most spectacular holiday season. The Christmas season has special meaning to me. I am a Christian. I realize that although we celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ on December 25, he was not born on that day. Shepherds only "watched their flocks (of sheep) by night" during lambing season in the spring. Mary and Joseph were travelling to their family home in Bethlehem to be taxed. Bless the Romans because they kept excellent records of their taxation schemes. Jesus is an Aries.

This Christmas season has special meaning to me. We have already begun our family celebrations with Advent, the period before Christmas when Christians await the coming of the Messiah or saviour. On the first day of Advent our church community got together for our Advent Event.

Families gathered at the church for a pot luck supper and later while the kids enjoyed crafts, the adults gathered to celebrate a Eucharist and sing Advent carols.

So many of our Christmas traditions have pagan roots. It is not a coincidence that Christmas falls so close to the winter equinox, the shortest day of the year. Early peoples huddled together in the dark. December 21 was an especially scary time as they believed evil forces were lurking nearby. Having loud, cheery celebrations helped break the spells and now have been incorporated into our traditions.

Decking the halls, or rooms with bows of evergreens symbolises the renewing of life. Our ancestors used holly, ivy and even herbs like, rosemary, hops and bay to decorate their houses in the winter months.

Mistletoe has special powers against witches and lightning. Young couples who shared a kiss under a sprig of mistletoe were charmed. If the woman took a berry from the mistletoe and swallowed it, her beau would become her betrothed. Women wishing to conceive were advised to carry mistletoe with them at all times. Even in the dead of winter, fertility rituals flourish.

The Yule log rituals are around fire and light. As the Advent wreath has candles symbolising the weeks before Christmas

and the birth of a saviour, there are other burning traditions. Heat and light are provided by logs that burn all night in a fireplace warming its' occupants.

Other traditions of the season surround the food we eat. As the song goes there are twelve days of Christmas, the time between Christmas Day (December 25) and The Epiphany (January 6th).

Foods such as fruit cake and mince meat pies date back to the nineteenth century. Christmas pudding is a mixture of flour, fruit and vegetables that is steamed for many hours and served after a meal. Each member of the house is expected to stir the mixture and see the bottom of the bowl. Unmarried women who fail to stir the 'pudd' will remain unmarried.

On Christmas Day our extended family gets together to enjoy fellowship and the food of the season.

The singing of Advent or Christmas songs or carols has many traditions. Members of our church go out a week or so before Christmas to sing carols in front of parishioners houses. It is very unlucky to send carollers away empty handed, even if they can't hold a tune, (we are actually quite good).

I hope that each and every one of us finds the time to enjoy the holiday season. To those celebrating a religious or family tradition during this time, I wish you well. To all others I would like to paraphrase a famous Canadian, J.S. Woodward, founder of the CCF, later the New Democratic Party, by wishing you and your family good health and prosperity; mindful that we live in a society in which all our sisters and brothers may not receive the same blessings as us.

At this holiday season, may the joy of humanity be with you and your family.

**Don't you just love exam time...**



# Our Community

## Why I hate the Winter Holidays

by Boni

I sat over at the "Coffee Time" across from the campus sipping my coffee and reflecting morosely when over walked a woman from my course who said, "How come you look so miserable?" "Well," I replied, "I have to write a Christmas article for the school newspaper and I HATE Christmas!" I expected her to have the same reaction most people do. In this society broadcasting that you hate Christmas is akin to publicly admitting that you light fluffy kittens on fire for sport. "Me too, everybody dies!" "Whoohoo!" I whooped, "You too?!" A kindred soul! "Along came a third woman. "What do you two look so pensive about?" "We hate Christmas," we responded in unison. "Me, too!" she gasped.

After that seditious conversation, I know there must be many more folks out there with the same opinion we have. If nothing else, I'm not alone, although I'm sure there are various reasons why so many of us loathe it. I'll just cover some of my own personal peevs. For those of you who love it, maybe you'll wind up with a little understanding of why some of us believe that December should be permanently eradicated from the calendar year. Maybe some of you can answer the deep philosophical questions that I have posed below.

The second lady was right. Everybody I know seems to die between December 1st and January 2nd. The only good point—at least I haven't had to take time off work to attend the funerals. I'm sure if I owned a goldfish, some fool kid would throw Christmas cake in the tank and I'd find it floating belly-up on Christmas morning. With a gerbil, it would get some weird exotic rodent disease that no one except a vet stationed in the wilds of outer Mongolia had ever heard of; I know I would spend thousands of dollars in airfare, medication and the latest laser technology on a five-dollar pet—only to find myself waving it off into the great void by Boxing Day.

The people who invented Christmas never realized that timing is everything. December is snowy, cold and windy. This does not promote cheerfulness amongst those of you who choose to shop for presents. Snow, cold and wind causes shoppers to be cranky. This, in turn makes store clerks crabby. Consequently, I go in to the store for a jar of discount peanut butter and have to deal with a cashier who exudes all the charm of Cleopatra's asp. This has a tendency to

exacerbate my already existing holiday gloom.

My sister brought up a good point. Only rich people have the means to charge everything in December. Poor folks need to get their income tax back first, so they can afford to purchase toys that cost more than the down payment on one's first house. I think the government and retailers should seriously consider moving Christmas to March for those of us who have an income under 100K

and green are not a subtle, tasteful colour combination?

The standard 5-course Christmas dinner may elevate men to the dizzying heights of gastronomic delight but it sure doesn't excite me to a tidal wave of orgasmic ecstasy. As Roseanne Barr so appropriately stated, "Who wants to get up at five o'clock in the morning to shove bread crumbs up a dead bird's ass?" It takes 12 hours to prepare a meal that takes all of ten minutes for a room full of

moment to pay top dollar for farm-bred flightless birds? With the amount of Canada geese defecating all over the boardwalk, I have no idea why we don't wring their hideous necks and save ourselves a wagon load of cash, never mind the tax break due to "Parks & Rec" no longer being required to shovel goose guano. If we could legally practice some personal ecological species thinning at a beach that has enough poultry milling around to feed the entire population of Bolivia, we could eliminate food banks.

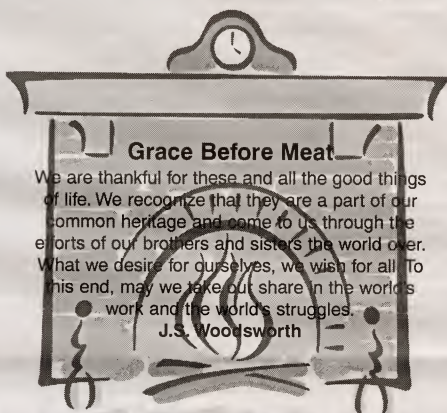
I despise New Year's Eve even more than Christmas if that's possible. I'd rather have my teeth drilled without freezing than go to a New Year's party—which either says much for today's dental profession or shows my readers just how much joy I derive from this particular celebration. I have personally termed New Year's, "The Night of the Liquid Dream". People who appear reasonably sane all year turn into caricatures of B-movie monsters at the stroke of 12. What is so stimulating about imbibing alcoholic beverages, feeling up the hostess' Afghan, then hearing your guts out on the hors d'oeuvre tray? I somehow fail to comprehend why over half of the nation chooses to spend the first day of a perfectly interesting new year hugging porcelain fixtures all morning then gulping analgesic all afternoon. Regarding the previous, can someone explain to

me what it is that I am not grasping? Of course after all the brouhaha that I wish I missed, we all have to go back to work and/or school at the beginning of January. OHMYGOD! THAT'S EVEN WORSE!!! Let's go back on holidays...

### ON A SERIOUS NOTE:

I remember talking to a homeless man last Christmas who said, "At Christmas, I can get more free meals than anyone could eat. The rest of the year, nobody cares if I starve to death." It is all well and fine to treat each other well over the holidays. However, if you don't translate that into action the rest of the year, a few weeks aren't going to make much of a difference. Please, learn to treat each other with respect, kindness and honour ALL year Make THAT your New Year's Eve resolution and maybe in the next millennium, we will really have something to celebrate...

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



yearly. The stores would be less crowded and we would have more cash. Anybody want to start a petition?

Does anyone out there know what's with the tacky lawn ornaments? It's enough to make Picasso wish he had been born blind. If pink flamingos in the summertime weren't enough to make me retch, right after Halloween I get an eye-ful of cheap plastic nativity scenes. These come complete with a peroxide-blond Madonna, pigmentally-challenged Joseph, imbecilic grinning wise men and miserable plastic sheep. They're proliferating everywhere. I think they procreate in people's closets during the off-season and now the fools who bought 'em in the first place are palming the descendants off as presents to all of their relatives. Couldn't someone put up Snow White and the seven dwarfs for a change? Has it ever occurred to anybody that red

gluttons to inhale. After that less-than-peak experience, usually the women are fobbed off to do dishes in the kitchen while the guys watch football, belch and snore. No matter how liberated you think your relationship is, just WATCH who first offers genuine help by grabbing the tea towels and scruffies. From the first of December, women I respect for breaking the glass ceiling battling the icons of the business world instinctively metamorphose into Hazel-the-Housemaid. It's enough to make the most tolerant feminist want to impale herself on her N.O.W. button.

And who started this turkey crap anyway? Charles Dickens wrote about a Christmas GOOSE if anybody in Hollywood was ever literate enough to actually read the book. So what happened there? Why are we fighting our way through crowded grocery stores at the last

College  
Life

by Tiffany Sallai





# Our Community

## PISSED OFF ABOUT PISS TESTING

by Boni

**A**lrighly then folks, now I am truly PISSED OFF. In fact, I am SO PISSED that the words are blurring on the screen. Let's also play "follow the dollars" to find out more about the reality of urine testing...

Quite a while back I wrote a humorous article about Mr. Mike's lamebrain idea of urine testing welfare recipients. The policy went through the courts and Supreme Court found that it was absolutely an unlawful invasion of privacy against the constitutional rights of drug users. Yet his Imperial Mikeship persists in breaking the laws of the very province he claims to serve. Of course, out of 23 assemblies he showed up for none, so if I wanted to be kind I could claim he is merely , not vicious.

Drug users, whether anyone likes it or not, are equally members of this society. I'm sick of this hidden government agenda of a war on poverty-ridden women and children so I am going to spell out for everyone where the land REALLY lies as far as I'm concerned:

- \* 80% of the people on welfare are women and children
- \* There are NO rehabs in Ontario with on-site daycare
- \* Urine testing is inaccurate in over 20% of cases
- \* Some cold and sinus and over-the-counter pain medications as well as prescription medications can appear as "positive" results. Urinalysis has been proven over and over to be the most inaccurate method of testing for the presence of substances.
- \* Methadone clients on OHIP are the ONLY clients whose records can be accessed by government agencies other than OHIP without their permission (ostensibly for research although welfare has access as well, since I'm sure my methadone-taking crones experiences are valid). This too was found to be illegal, however, the practice has not stopped.
- \* The government says they will only test for opiates-yeah and cows fly, too. This also means targeting methadone patients in unprecedented numbers.
- \* Homeless people including drug users have a 28% Hep C rate, a 17% AIDS/HIV rate and a 10% tuberculosis rate-never mind a myriad mess of other health concerns such as pneumonia, h pylori ulcers, gangrene infections, diabetes etc. etc.
- \* Any needle exchange worker can tell you that there are plenty of middle and upper class, employed drug users. However, since they have quiet homes and neighbourhoods where they can safely hide their usage behind wide lawns and thick walls and have access to clean paraphernalia, they are not targeted by anti-drug policies.
- \* Obviously, the question we need to ask ourselves is, "WHY does Mr. Mike want to drug test welfare recipients?" Let's look at the many real ramifications of this draconian policy:
  - \* Throw anyone who doesn't want

invasive treatment off welfare. Make them homeless. Homeless people can't collect welfare. Save money.

\* Force people into Mr. Mike's big businessman-friends' rehabs, some of which are making millions of OHIP and charity dollars but have less than a 10% success rate—when they bother to recount their statistics at all—since in many cases they are not required to evaluate the efficacy of their programs. To justify their existence with the dropout rate so high, rehabs need clients, lots of clients, even multiple repeat clients will do. Yet underfunded harm reduction programs with proven 75% success rates are battling for a few measly DAP (Drug Abuse Prevention) dollars from the City of Toronto. Of all the millions in funding the United Way pumps into rehabs, they only fund 3 harm reduction-style programs in Toronto so far as I have been able to discover. Sharelife, the other big (Catholic-driven) contender in the funding business certainly won't support risk reducing condoms and needles. This fight is also about the majority of dollars going into an Americanized moralized model of 'recovery' system rife with inequacy.

\* Add to the homeless population those who enter rehabs then can't comply with the agency's abstinence guidelines or other imposed policies. One place insisted that my client, who had just come from the street in his only sweat suit, wear dress shirts and slacks to prove he had the 'right attitude'. Since he couldn't meet that rule, they discharged him. Non-compliant clients can be and often are, turfed out to the street. A secondary benefit to get rid of more people on welfare through dehousing.

\* Break up the drug user's and homeless activists' unions. If they are homeless they won't have regular access to telephones, modems and faxes. As a result, they can't organize politically. Drug user unions, OCAP etc. have been in the forefront of the battle against homelessness, poverty and marginalization since the start of this roaring war. Harass suspected activists collecting Ontario Workers, Family Benefits or disability payments with constant urine testing demands.

\* Mr. Mike wants to build "super-jails" so the province can download its responsibilities for the marginalized into a profit-making venture—just who is going to live in them? The homeless and drug users! Without access to clean fits and condoms they will contract HIV/AIDS and hepatitis even more rapidly, thus saving Mr. Mike the international uproar that would happen if he just punched marginalized people into gas chambers or let them freeze to death. And guess what? Dead people don't collect welfare...

There's another dirty hidden agenda in this that no one has looked at. Most people on welfare are mothers and children. Let's look at the sequences of events:

1. The Children's Aid Society loses

control of the adoption process. Most birth mothers willing to put their children up for adoption have made their legal arrangements through private lawyers since the 80's to break the stranglehold of silence imposed by CAS.

2. Consequently, CAS receives most of it's children (read, "dollars justified") through 'apprehension'—in other words, kidnapping children from marginalized families out of their homes then shoving it through civil court without being forced to lay a single provable criminal charge against the parent(s). They are then free to adopt the child out or appropriate scads of government money to justify their miserable existence by bouncing kids from foster home to foster home eventually placing them in expensive residential settings. All at costs millions of dollars greater than supporting the family of origin. Minority families have been blatant targets of this insidious white-patriarchal-middle-class-driven agenda of break-up-the-family-dog-and-pony-show.

3. Mr. Mike slows down foreign adoption via "taxing" international adoption.

4. Dozens of CAS worker jobs start showing up in the local newspapers.

### Scenario 1:

Mother tests positive for use of drugs. Welfare worker informs CAS. Mother loses child, particularly if she is pregnant.

### Scenario 2:

Woman tests positive. Becomes pregnant. Child apprehended at birth even though there has been no further drug use since she discovered pregnancy.

### Scenario 3:

Mother tests false positive. Refuses treatment since she isn't using. Can't afford lawyer. CAS takes child. Mother either has no legal representation in court or inadequate representation. CAS keeps child since mother refuses to confess her child care sin of illicit drug use. Salem, Massachusetts anyone?

### Scenario 4:

Mother tests positive. Refuses treatment due to lack of child-care resources. CAS takes children. Becomes homeless and hopeless.

### Scenario 5:

Mother tests positive. Takes treatment. Treatment lasts one month. Has no personal resources to care for children. Once in care, CAS refuses to give children back until mother proves she is "clean" for an unspecified period of time that is ever-changing with different workers. She will lack proper legal representation and may fight on for years to have the children returned. Children, if they are ever returned, are irreparably damaged by separation.

### Scenario 6:

Mother tests negative. Is continually harassed to re-take tests or welfare cheque will be cut off.

### Scenario 7:

Mother tests positive. Refuses treatment. Can't pay rent. Is evicted. Children removed by CAS due to lack of secure housing.

### Other Consequences:

Among people who are marginalized, there is a 28% Hep C rate, a 17% HIV rate and a 10% tuberculosis rate.

Grossly underpaid outreach teams, peer counsellors, needle exchange providers and harm reduction workers are frying themselves out to keep users alive. They go out of their way to educate with accurate information, house and adequately supply users with clean injection kits, safer pipes, safe piercing kits, condoms etc. so that these appalling rates can be lessened in the future. All of the previous responses have been proven to be effective in other countries to lessen disease rates over a fairly short course of time. Driving drug users underground and away from these services through the fear of urine testing further undermines the incredible work of the many dedicated health providers who are saving lives on a daily basis.

Drug use is not a legal issue, moral issue or a welfare issue. It is a health concern. Drug users are entitled to the same right to social services, housing and health care as everyone else.

As far as I'm concerned if Mike is gonna urine test-then p'ss on Mike.

### Conclusion:

Presently, IDUUIT, the Illicit Drug User's Union of Toronto is trying to get a lawyer to force the Harris government to follow the directives of the courts. So far, no luck-but I'll keep you posted.

If Mr. Mike wants to get in a p'ssing contest then I suggest for the first person who is drug tested, we all show up at the medical facilities that are paid to promote this invasion of privacy. First I intend to dump buckets of my personal urine tests on the front steps of Queen's park and then I will literally p'ss on the offending service provider's lawn in a show of solidarity against this incredible abuse of human rights.

You may find this outrageous. You may think this is a simply a welfare matter. However, if it continues, before long every single person in this country will be forced to be urine-tested before receiving proper medical treatment, employment, or government benefits that WE are paying for.

Mr. Mike cannot continue to break the back of the constitution he swore to uphold.

Comments can be sent to either:  
[dialog@canada.com](mailto:dialog@canada.com)  
 Or  
[MetisRebel@hotmail.com](mailto:MetisRebel@hotmail.com)





An image essay by  
Sera Gordon and  
Edwin Huang





shopping is god



# Genetically Modified Foods: Dangerous?

By Edwin Huang

**T**he issue of genetically modified foods affects us all in one-way or another. As technology advances, so do business interests. The pressure cooker environment for businesses to produce more and more with no end target in sight is the reality in this day and age. There always seems to be another five-percent yield increase that is achievable next year...perhaps? The body of this document will focus on just some of the few levels that the GM (genetically modified) food industry affects. There are some obvious areas and some not so obvious. Here we spotlight the negative health concerns associated with GM foods, business and corporate interests, specific examples of food recalls, organic farming, the negative impact to the environment, scientific research, and the GM food industry on a global scale. There are definitely passionate individuals who will defend each side of the issue. At this time, public opinion is gaining momentum globally to question the validity and safety of GM food practices. Until satisfactory and definitive answers are found concerning this issue, questions and doubt will continue to arise. It is our opinion that the factual research documented supports our view that the GM food industry's negative points greatly outweigh its positive benefits.

## What is GM food?

Genetically modified food is accomplished through genetic engineering. Genetic engineering is splicing a gene from one species to another and thus, creating a Genetically Modified Organism or GMO. By changing the DNA (the blueprint for the individuality of an organism) the features or functions of an organism including life and growth are changed. For example putting fish genes into a tomato. Tomatoes are susceptible to frost, and fish survive in very cold water. Scientists found that if they combined strands (vectors) of their DNA they were capable of producing a frost resistant tomato. Some of the other substances that are used in the genetic modification of food are some that have never been a part of human digestion. These include scorpion, moths, bacteria, rats, and mice. We know very little of the possible adverse effects these interactions of genes have to each other as well as to the environment. Through this process the crops, such as corn and soy, are grown with a built-in pesticide and are able to withstand large amounts of the herbicide Round-up. There is no requirement to label GM food in Canada. Genetically engineered food is everywhere! It is an estimate that in Canada, as much as 75% of all pre-packaged foods in Canada may contain genetically altered substances. Once an organism has been genetically manipulated, and as organisms will reproduce-you have changed nature and thus you cannot recall your actions.

## Health:

The most obvious concern to most people when they discuss GM food is of course health. The scientific communities that are at odds to whether the testing of food safety are indeed adequate or not. No long-term tests have been done to ensure that there is absolutely no danger to humans in the long run. Parents are concerned, as children are more susceptible to potential health risks than

campaign of organizations such as Greenpeace in Canada to bring such labeling standards to our country. Do you think that that is too much to ask for? In the U.S. in 1989, 37 people who consumed a food supplement named L-Tryptophan (used to treat insomnia and depression) died and estimates of up to 10 000 people were left disabled after ingesting the pills. Findings show that



adults. People with allergies are also concerned because they have no way of identifying and avoiding potentially harmful foods that may be a health risk to them. On one side of the issue are corporations and opposing them are consumer groups and health lobbyists. There are companies such as Monsanto who give us assurances that the utmost care in testing is involved before any food item reaches the supermarket. Consumer watchdog groups such as Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace hold another opinion. They argue that the large multinational GM food industry, worth \$4 Billion dollars in the US alone, is out to make a fast buck-the safety of its customers an afterthought. One example of how things can go wrong in a hurry occurred in the summer of 2000. Taco Bell, Kraft, Kellogg's and a host of other companies around the world were put on alert to pull their food items made from Starlink corn off the shelves IMMEDIATELY! As the story goes, somehow crops of Starlink corn, which has not yet been tested for use in food for HUMAN consumption, somehow was mixed with the supply of regular corn! Starlink corn has been tested to show an allergic reaction to a small segment of the population. The concern was great around the world, especially in Japan where Starlink corn is not even approved for ANIMAL feed! (Hmmm? Makes you think, don't it?) Much of Japan's food is imported from the U.S., about 60%, and it is a reasonable expectation by the Japanese government that the food shipments are inspected before being sent from the U.S.-an apparent oversight by the U.S. food producers. In Japan all food containing GM organisms are clearly marked as such. It is the on-going

the deaths were due to contamination by a newly modified strain of genetically engineered bacteria.

## Business:

These are just a few of the companies behind biotechnology in the GM food industry-Monsanto (proud makers of toxic PCB's and Agent Orange), Dupont (makers of weapons-grade plutonium, leaded gas and CFC's), and Dow (makers of Napalm and silicon breast implants). These companies and others reap high profits from selling these seeds. The seeds are patented and they are success dependent on their built-in pesticides, as well the seeds are sterile and seeds must be purchased again and again crop after crop as opposed to in the past when a farmer could seed from his/her old yield. Monsanto is listed on Forbes magazine's list of top 100 U.S. profit-making companies. They are investing millions of dollars each year on genetic engineering and since the 70's have spent \$2 billion dollars on research and development. The biotechnology industry stocks in the European Union are largely supported by capital for research and development-not by any actual sales for products on the market. Thus there exists a pressure for these companies to keep their stock prices high, especially in a sector where mergers and takeovers are common. They must maintain a sense that all of their genetic engineering techniques are predictable and that they the company, are in complete control of their product outcomes and its development. The close relationship between the GE industry and scientists worry some in that there is a fear that scientific investigations may be compromised.

## Organic Farming:

The alternative to genetically modified food is an old fashioned one-organic farming. Due to the corporatization of farming via the use of the Industrial Farming Model, there is a total reduction in the number of working farms. For example, in the Maritimes, the reduction has been drastic: from approximately 10000 farms in 1956 to about 1500 presently. Organic farming is farming which makes no use of synthetic pesticides, synthetic fertilizers or genetic engineering. By using organic farming methods, there is less pollution to water and air, and nutrient losses are less. Organic farming sustains a diversity of wildlife. Organic farmers use specific practices of which promote and encourage wildlife and the protection of their habitats. The fertility of soil is dramatically increased with organic management, while it declines with the use of industrial methods. In recent years, there has been an increase in community gardening. In Toronto there are approximately 100 community gardens in existence; about 4500 people use them to grow fruit, vegetables, and flowers. Many people are discovering the stress relief and joy they get from gardening. The increased availability and profile of organic food is greatly increased by the organization FOODSHARE in Toronto. This organization runs workshops on organic gardening, community gardening, and distributes the "Good Food Box". The Good Food Box is an organic food-box delivery service operating out of the Foodshare organization. Customers receive at their door a box containing about 50 lbs of organic fruits and vegetables for \$15 (retail cost of a box=\$23-30). The program started off small in 1992 and has grown in size to the delivery of 4000 boxes per month.

## Conclusion:

The topic of genetically modified food, on various levels is a complicated one. This is an important issue for all of us as it affects all of us. Time will tell if the concerns of consumer groups were correct or incorrect. Are you willing to take the risk of becoming ill on a daily basis? Many lobby groups exist to pressure the government into enacting labeling legislation. How many of us will be or have been hurt by GM foods? It is easy to say "I'll avoid all GM foods, but it is quite another to actually accomplish. The major obstacles currently: the price of organics, the availability of non-GM foods, and the lack of GM labeling on food items. The marriage between scientists and the food industry that hires them, makes some of us quite nervous. What are we being told? And more importantly what AREN'T we being told? Statistics can be bent like pretzels...

Info from [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)



# Our Community

## Disability Issues - UNITING

By Judith Allen

There has been some evidence of what I can only describe as apathy among students with a disability at the College. Recent meetings and events have been poorly attended. While it is possible that this shows the success of the services that are being provided to the disabled student population, judging by the number of grumbles I have heard recently from many students with a disability, this is not so. Also possible, is that the students do not feel that their disability is their biggest barrier to education, that their racial, religious, or cultural differences are more important factors, or that they are afraid to identify as a student with a disability - especially students with a hidden disability such as a learning disability or mental health condition. These are all valid grounds for not being active in the disability movement within the College, but in order to have our voices heard, it's necessary for us to speak up. As individuals, our power to facilitate change is small. We may manage to have our own needs met for this term, semester, or program, but the barriers remain for the students with disabilities who will come after us. To completely break down these barriers we must work together. We must unite to advocate for other students with disabilities. Our individual contribution to this change can be as small as signing a petition or writing our story down and sharing it with others, or as large as organizing a rally, protest, or forum. By becoming involved, we can contribute to the changes that are happening at the College, in Ontario, or across Canada.

Becoming involved is easy. Attend one of the OSD meetings, support the Ontarians with Disabilities Act Committee, come out to one of the events that have been organized for students with a disability, or write an article about your experiences to the Dialog - anonymously, if necessary).

### News

The past few weeks have been busy ones for disability

activists at George Brown. We have been involved in local, provincial, and federal activities that advocate for students with a disability.

Locally, representatives of the population of students with a disability have been involved in organizing a forum for students with a disability at George Brown. The forum gave students the opportunity to speak out about difficulties that they were having at college in relation to their disability. The forum was well attended by both staff of the college and students with a disability. The Deaf community at the College was particularly well represented - for which I am grateful. The comments that were made were recorded and will be presented to the departments that are responsible for meeting those needs - the Learning Resource Centres, the Testing Centre, etc.

On a provincial level, we are proud to have been able to send a group of students to the Ontarians with Disabilities Act Committee's Rally at Queens Park on November 15th. The ODA Committee is an advocacy group that is working towards forcing Mike Harris to fulfill his election promise to enact an Ontario Disability Act. The rally was well attended by a diverse group of people with disabilities from all over the province.

On a national level, the Organization of Student with a Disability were fortunate to be able to send a representative to the bi-annual National Educational Association of Disabled Students Conference on Remembrance Day weekend. NEADS is a national advocacy group for students with a disability. Their web-site ([www.neads.ca](http://www.neads.ca)) contains a huge amount of information for students with a disability. Everything from services available at individual post-secondary institutions to scholarships, grants, and bursaries available to students with a disability can be found here. The Conference was a great opportunity to network with other organizations, collect information, and learn more effective ways to advocate. A report about the Conference will be available soon.

Returning to the local level, the organization of Students with a Disability, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, and Disability services, are discussing plans to develop a

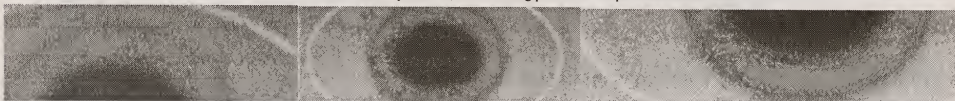
Faculty of Community Services Placement Manual for students with a disability. The manual will set out the responsibility of each in securing a practical, useful, and reasonable placement for students with a disability in any of the Community Service programs - Community Worker, Assaulted Women and Children's Advocate, Child and Youth Worker, Early Childhood Education, etc. Placement can be the biggest barrier to successful completion of the program for a student with a disability and as such, there is a need to address the barriers and remove them where possible. Submissions and stories about their placement experiences are welcomed from students with disabilities.

### Upcoming Events

Just a reminder about the upcoming OSD/Athletics event on November 29th. We will be meeting in Room 581C at 4:00 to discuss what activities students with a disability would like to be involved in and how we can make this happen. After the meeting we will be enjoying some food and pop provided by Athletics before heading up to the gym to watch our Basketball teams play. During the meeting we will be drawing names for some prizes that have been donated to us by Athletics. All students, staff, and faculty (disabled or non-disabled), who are committed to equal access, are welcome to attend the meeting. Pick up a flier at Disability Services, Athletics, the Access Centre, or Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

The next two meetings of the OSD will be held on November 22nd and December 13th at 5pm in room 165B at St. James Campus. All are welcome to attend to strategize how we can make access at the College easier for all students.

If you have any contributions for this column, would like to share your experience, or need help with an issue that is disability related, please e-mail me at [accessdiva@altavista.com](mailto:accessdiva@altavista.com), or leave me a message with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Disability Services, the Access Centre (rm.165B at St. James)



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## K-Sera Sera

You suck. I hate your articles. They are outdated, we are not living in the 50's. We are living in the new millennium. Year 2000. Get with the times and get hip. You don't actually think that we take you serious do you? Give us a break!

Well ok you close minded asshole What type of advice do you think that I should be giving the student body? Advice that states take drugs & get laid? And hey while your at it why not fail all of your classes. I think that I will tell you to mind your own business. If you don't like it why don't you meet me at the dialogue office. We can take this one out of school to find out how hip I really am.

Whew with that one off of my mind I guess we can move on to the next letter. If you have any ideas or opinions on how I can make this column better why not send constructive criticism.

kserasera@chickmail.com

Dera Kserasera  
I I am so (stressed) busy I can't believe it. Work work work is all I ever do. I work so much that I have had very little time for myself. So little time in fact that I am growing a small yard on my legs. Not to mention the fuzzy bough

under my pits. I still bathe (I am a hygiene freak) This is crazy crazy crazy  
I am so (busy) stressed

Its all good good good. Would you want it any other way? I once was living in a place that was quite like this. Can yeah get the riddle of the middle rhythm? Cha Cha Cha Shaaaaaaa Zam

Well that is it for the semester! Now looking forward to deadline after deadline. I hope that everyone has a great winter season. I am looking forward to my birthday, and winter solstice (the longest night of the year) I don't know if that means that I should stay up later or get extra sleep!

Hey for all of you fun artistic types! Who would like to see your name in PRINT!

We are accepting short stories and poetry submissions from you-the reader!!!

If you are interested please send via email to [kserasera@chickmail.com](mailto:kserasera@chickmail.com)

## Huskie Basketball Rostor 2000/2001

<b>Name:</b> Shawn Wyse	<b>Strengths:</b> tremendous leaping ability	<b>Name:</b> Damian Gordon
<b>Uniform #:</b> 11		<b>Position:</b> 25
<b>Position:</b> Guard/Forward		<b>Height:</b> Forward
<b>Height:</b> 62"		<b>Height:</b> 6'3"
<b>Hometown:</b> Toronto		<b>Hometown:</b> London
<b>Strengths:</b> excellent defender, smart		<b>Strengths:</b> strong rebounder, hustles well
<b>Name:</b> Clifford Brown	<b>Name:</b> Wilton Edwards	
<b>Uniform #:</b> 14	<b>Uniform #:</b> 31	
<b>Position:</b> Guard	<b>Position:</b> Guard	
<b>Height:</b> 6'0"	<b>Height:</b> 5'10"	
<b>Hometown:</b> Scarborough	<b>Hometown:</b> Toronto	
<b>Strengths:</b> excellent defender, good work ethic	<b>Strengths:</b> excellent penetrator, good court sense	
<b>Name:</b> Raymond Morgan	<b>Name:</b> Bojan Catic	
<b>Uniform #:</b> 15	<b>Uniform #:</b> 32	
<b>Position:</b> Point Guard	<b>Position:</b> Forward	
<b>Height:</b> 5'7"	<b>Height:</b> 6'5"	
<b>Hometown:</b> Toronto	<b>Hometown:</b> Toronto	
<b>Strengths:</b> sees the court well, consistent shooter	<b>Strengths:</b> solid passing ability, good defender	
<b>Name:</b> Mark Scarlett	<b>Name:</b> Andrew Richards	
<b>Uniform #:</b> 20	<b>Uniform #:</b> 33	
<b>Position:</b> Point Guard	<b>Position:</b> Forward	
<b>Height:</b> 5'8"	<b>Height:</b> 6'8"	
<b>Hometown:</b> Mississauga	<b>Hometown:</b> Brooklyn, NY	
<b>Strengths:</b> solid defender, good passer	<b>Strengths:</b> extremely quick, intimidating defensive presence	
<b>Name:</b> Alex Kim	<b>Name:</b> Wayne Willis	
<b>Uniform #:</b> 21	<b>Uniform #:</b> 42	
<b>Position:</b> Guard	<b>Position:</b> Forward	
<b>Height:</b> 6'0"	<b>Height:</b> 6'0"	
<b>Hometown:</b> Vancouver, BC	<b>Hometown:</b> Toronto	
<b>Strengths:</b> good shooter, diligent	<b>Strengths:</b> good defender, strong rebounder	
<b>Name:</b> Dion Horsford		
<b>Uniform #:</b> 22		
<b>Position:</b> Guard		
<b>Height:</b> 5'10"		
<b>Hometown:</b> Toronto		

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Bursaries 201

December 1, 2000

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[www.millenniumscholarships.ca](http://www.millenniumscholarships.ca)

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x	x	0
x	0	x

The Foundation invites all post-secondary students to visit its new Web site. In response to students' suggestions, the redesigned site is now easier to navigate and offers students regionally specific information about the Bursary Program.

Why didn't I get a bursary?



When do I get my bursary?

# It's your world

On track: taking the team  
to new heights.

Off track: same deal.

Go figure.

Mike Lafontaine  
and Josh Freund  
Player's Racing  
Team members



**Team Player's**

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